

By BARNEY GLAZER

EDITORIALS

The Changing Times

Councilman Victor E. Benstead Jr., campaigning for re-election Tuesday on a platform that includes demands for immediate condemnation of a million-dollar industrial site for a city park, has not always been so enthusiastic about parks.

On April 14, 1953, when the City Council was considering an ordinance which would require subdividers to pay \$100 an acre into a fund which would be used to purchase park sites in the expanding residential areas of the city, Councilman Benstead opposed the measure.

"The city can't afford to care for the parks it now owns, much less care for any more new ones," he declared during discussion on the proposal before the Council.

Despite his protests, the ordinance was adopted and the city has received thousands of dollars from developers which has been used to purchase neighborhood park sites in all sections of the city.

'Made in California'

Governor Knight has officially proclaimed April 15-21 as "Made-In-California Week" as a tribute to the vital importance of consumer industries in the Golden State's booming economy.

Thousands upon thousands of Californians are employed in large and small industries that have succeeded in bringing the State into a position of great importance in the clothing and home furnishing fields. California fashions now are recognized the world over and innumerable products contribute to better living for Americans everywhere.

William T. Maxfield, executive director of the California Retailers-Manufacturers Committee, illustrates the potent impact of consumer industries on the state's economy with this startling statistic:

More than one million persons, or nearly one-seventh of California's population, are employed in the manufacturing, distribution and retailing of consumer products, ranging from minute electric components to the most glamorous fashions in the world. This is a total greater than the population of more than one-fourth of the individual states of the Union.

Many of these fine California products are to be had right here in Torrance stores. It would seem that local residents would appreciate the value of buying California-made articles because in so doing they may be assured that they are directly sharing in the continuing expansion of the state's economy.

Laughter Missed

Quite a while ago, in 1928, when Herbert Hoover and Al Smith were having at it in their battle for the Presidency, the old humor magazine "Life" gave the excited and heated citizenry some refreshing chuckles by advocating the election of Will Rogers.

"Life's" campaign slogan: "Ours is the only candidate who can be funny intentionally."

Indeed Will Rogers could be funny intentionally—belly-laugh funny, and satirically funny ("we're all ignorant, only on different subjects")—and when he died, 20 years ago, with him went a precious store of a commodity of which this old world is ever in need, the commodity of laughter.

A like pang for laughter lost was felt by many people when Fred Allen, he of the gravel voice and deadpan wit, died in New York. With him, too, went a rare gift for being funny intentionally, for throwing the frustrations and vexations of living, if only for a moment, into a relieving focus of humor.

Men of such gifts are always missed, for always they are so pitifully few.

IT'S A FACT By JERRY CAHILL

Quinine (like rubber) was first discovered in South America... An airplane's 'joy stick' was originally a 'joyce stick'—so named after its inventor... Remember Pearl Harbor! The United States Navy—has never lost a fleet action!



Nine Charter Amendments To Be Decided on Tuesday

Voters at next Tuesday's election will be called on to mark their approval or disapproval of nine proposals to change the Torrance City Charter.

The HERALD today reviews each of the proposals in an effort to point out what is sought in each case.

Amendment No. 1. This proposal, if passed, will change the charter to permit payment of a monthly salary of \$100 to each of the five members of the City Council. At the present time, the Councilmen receive only "out-of-pocket" expenses incurred on city business. This would be continued in addition to the monthly salary. The HERALD has editorially favored this measure and recommends a "Yes" vote on No. 1.

Amendment No. 2. This proposal would put the deputy city attorney on Civil Service status. The present deputy city attorney is not a member of the city's classified service. The HERALD recommends a "Yes" vote on No. 2.

Amendment No. 3. This change in the charter would provide that all expenditures exceeding \$2000 for construction, improvement, and other phases of city business must be awarded by public bidding. The present maximum expenditure permitted without bids is \$1000. The changes during recent years in costs of materials and labor make the \$2000 maximum more realistic. The HERALD recommends a "Yes" vote on No. 3.

Amendment No. 4. Changes charter to require that detailed claims for money or damages of city business of property be filed with the city and rejected before a suit can be brought against the city. This would give the city a chance to settle claims before they are taken to court. The HERALD recommends a "Yes" vote on No. 4.

Amendment No. 5. This provision on franchises merely adds a basis for the city's franchise ordinance to an ordinance that would not change the present procedure. It is not now covered in the charter. A "Yes" vote is recommended.

Amendment No. 6. Revises the rules under which an ordinance or resolution may be adopted by the Council stating that at least five days must lapse between the introduction and adoption of an ordinance and that no ordinance or resolution can be adopted by less than a majority of the Council. Under the present charter provision, an ordinance or resolution can be adopted by two members of the Council if they constitute the majority of the quorum present. The present Charter is specific in that it takes three affirmative votes to adopt ordinances, resolutions or orders calling for the expenditures of

money. The amendment would impose the same requirement for all ordinances or resolutions. A "Yes" vote is recommended.

Amendment No. 7. This proposal, if passed, would set up a new office in city government, a Director of Finance. To handle the complex financial matters of modern municipal government, most progressive cities comparable to Torrance throughout California have established such a department. Comparable positions have long been maintained by commercial and industrial firms. Torrance has grown so large and complex that functions of a finance department can no longer be carried on in the City Clerk's office, which has also experienced a heavy increase in work load with the city's growth.

If the amendment is adopted, it is planned to employ a man especially qualified for the position based on proper education, background, and experience in municipal finance administration. Duties of the new Director of Finance would be to maintain and operate general accounting system of the city; keep and maintain inventory records of municipal properties; cooperate with City Clerk and City Treasurer to establish and maintain control over revenues and expenditures; service audits, claims, demands, and payrolls for the city; assist in preparing the annual budget; prepare financial reports of the city.

This is a vitally needed addition to the city administration and a "Yes" vote is recommended.

Amendment No. 8. The amendment re-defines the duties of the City Treasurer in line with the proposal to set up a Department of Finance, and requires certain reports be made to the finance officer and City Council. A "Yes" vote is recommended.

Amendment No. 9. This amendment would combine city and school elections on the same date and has been opposed by the Board of Education, school officials, and other responsible persons who believe the best interests of the residents of Torrance would not be served by mixing city and school ballots. The HERALD has opposed this measure and recommends a "No" vote on No. 9.

LAW IN ACTION

CONTRACTS AND 'COMPETENCY'

For a contract to stand up at all, there must be two or more "competent" parties who know and agree on what they mean to do. This is what you mean by a "meeting of minds" in a contract.

And this is why in California and elsewhere the law does not permit a person of unsound mind—one who does not know the nature of his agreement—to make contracts. Instead, the law seeks to protect such people—from themselves and from others who may prey upon them.

But suppose you make a valid contract with a sane person say to buy his house, but before doing his part he becomes incompetent? Well, the court may name a guardian for him to carry out his part of the contract. Courts will hold persons to valid contracts insofar as they can understand what they are doing: Someone may blackout at times, and then be incompetent; but at lucid times he may be fully competent to make a lawful contract.

Into court and prove that the old man, being incompetent at the time, could not have signed away the homestead legally.

Meeting of Minds. Our courts often name and supervise a guardian to act for an incompetent person. This is what you mean by a contract while incompetent, but before the court found



him so, the guardian might well have the contract rescinded. Of course, a person or his guardian must pay for food and like necessities furnished him while incompetent even though his other contracts may not be enforceable against him. But as a rule, the other party may not back out if the guardian wishes to hold him to a contract. Note: The State Bar of California offers this column for you to know more about our laws.

Recently, Lisa Kirk lunched with Mamie Eisenhower at the White House. When Lisa announced that she expected to appear in another Broadway musical soon Mrs. Eisenhower replied: "If you do I hope you have a long run." To which Lisa replied: "Why, thank you. And I hope that you and the President will enjoy one, too."

When his 11 year-old daughter, Ingrid, asked for permission to watch a horror picture on TV, Walter Slezak replied: "In one condition only. When you wake up frightened in the middle of the night, you must promise to call your mother and not me."

Yuba, my milkman, asked his wife: "Honey, where did you get that new purse?" "I bought it," replied his wife, "and how do you like it?" To which Yuba asked: "It all depends. How much did it cost me?"

My Uncle Shloomp overheard an elderly couple in a train say they were hungry but they were afraid to leave their belongings. Learning over, Shloomp volunteered:

"Go on to the diner. I'll watch your things." Apprehensively, the elderly gentleman looked Shloomp up and down and then demanded: "But who's going to watch you?"

My good neighbor Deemo told his little boy he could have a cookie if he would promise he'd go to bed immediately. The boy agreed but Deemo wasn't satisfied. Drawing his son in close, Deemo demanded: "Look at me! Right in the eye!" Whereupon the boy looked at his dad, doubled his fist and following instructions, punched him right in the eye!

Gordon N. Freeman, publisher of the Pine Bluff Commercial Pine Bluff, Ark., tells me about the fortune teller who visited his newspaper office and applied for a fortune-telling advertisement. Promptly, Mr. Freeman rejected the application, explaining that this type of advertising was not acceptable, but what Gordon doesn't quite understand is why the fortune teller couldn't forget that the advertisement would be rejected.

Vandyke, my barber, told

me how the town of Azusa, Calif., got its name. "They wanted a name which would take in everything from A to Z," explains Vandyke, "and it would have to be typically American—therefore Az and then then USA!"

I'm not always ahead of my darling wife, for example the day I remarked to her in disgust: "My mother told me to be careful. 'Oh, yes, my dear,' whereupon Betty Brown Eyes immediately inquired: 'And what did your father tell you?'"

My old Latin teacher, Mr. Flogger, was checking out of the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, after a session with the galloping dominoes. "Something feels missing," said Flogger to his wife, checking his bag carefully. "Oh, yes, my dear, I know," he said suddenly. "It's my money."

Charlie, my personal tailor, wants to know that the most popular man in a train these days is the one who knows why all the stops are being made.

Caskie Stinner tells me about the highly uncooperative patient who was told by a nurse to say "Pin" as quickly as he felt the pain when she jabbed a pin in his anatomy. She stabbed him and he yelled: "Ouch!"

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Perfume instead of cigar smoke was the predominant smell around government offices recently.

The week was "Girls' Week" and lassies from high schools throughout the city were taking over offices of all kinds, temporarily at least.

There are some who think that it might be well if they would take over the offices permanently. The youngsters, they argue, couldn't muddle things up much more than present officials are doing.

Our headlines are filled with news of wars and squabbles in Morocco and the Middle East, fights over rigid farm price supports, and public water systems, and hassles over who will collect rubbish and burn their trash in incinerators.

Since this is the political season, we hear speeches of all kinds denouncing the inefficient and corrupt way that the "ins" are managing the government. We hear some grown men making statements that even a child would hesitate to utter with a straight face.

Who knows? The youngsters might be able to manage things better than their elders. At least they would start out with fewer preconceived notions and higher ideals on the whole.

Everybody talks about reform, but after they have been in a little while the reformers generally stop reforming and somebody else has to reform the reformers. Somebody once noted that many words of wisdom come from the mouth of babes, and while we don't exactly mean robbing the cradle, youngsters might be able to find a fresh approach to problems.

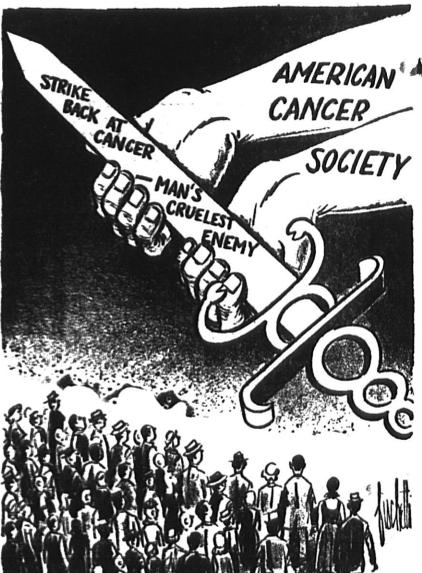
Since time immemorial man has been fighting wars even though good rarely comes from them. Maybe the youngsters would be smart enough to see that the best way to

fight wars is to have the leaders of government do the fighting, while the people watch.

Maybe the youngsters would be able to look at things on their merits instead of considering it from the angle of how it would please this group or that.

At any rate, it might be interesting to see what would happen. But it would never work. There are too many adults around.

"TAKE UP THE SWORD OF HOPE: GIVE!"



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for words like 'Devoured', 'Fruit alone', 'Large scurried bird', etc.

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